

Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors



2006-2007
Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

The Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is a progressive Board, known for its dedication and commitment to action. The Board maintains its drive through the strategic planning process by laying out goals and objectives to carry out its Mission and Vision for the future.

The Board held its first strategic planning meeting in February 1994. The Board updates this plan on an annual basis and does so in accordance with the "Strategic Planning Guidelines" published by the Department of Finance. The strategic planning process focuses the Board and its staff in reaching its goals and objectives while keeping pace with emerging trends, political climate, and natural disasters. However, in the past several fiscal years, the Board has been limited in achieving some of its goals and objectives due to limitations on hiring and funding.

This update contains goals and objectives for fiscal years 2006 through 2009. The Board is maintained through revenue generated by licensee fees and application fees and has an annual budget for fiscal year 2006/2007 of \$8,025,000. The Board receives no funding from state or federal taxes.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public by regulating the practices of professional engineering and land surveying. The Board accomplishes its Mission by:

- ✓ Licensing qualified individuals as professional engineers and land surveyors
- ✓ Anticipating changes in the engineering and land surveying professions to ensure that the laws and regulations are contemporary, relevant, and responsive.
- ✓ Establishing regulations and promoting professional conduct.
- ✓ Enforcing laws and regulations.
- ✓ Providing information so that the public can make informed decisions regarding utilizing professional engineering and land surveying services.

Vision Statement

The Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will have a major role in ensuring that Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors provide the highest quality professional services.

- ✓ Consumers and licensees will have access to comprehensive information through a wide range of technology and facilities.
- ✓ California Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities enabling them to meet the expectations of clients and consumers.
- ✓ The public will have high degree of confidence in the engineering and land surveying of roads, bridges, buildings, and other facilities and systems.

Goals

The goals of the Board will be the framework through which specific objectives are enunciated. The goals are to:

- ◆ *Protect consumers by:*
 - ✓ providing information and education about the practices of engineering and land surveying and their relevance to California consumers
 - ✓ effectively discouraging violations of the law before they happen
 - ✓ promptly investigating and adjudicating violations of the law
- ◆ *Promote laws and regulations that are clear, relevant, unambiguous, and functional*
- ◆ *Increase public and professional awareness of the Board's:*
 - ✓ Mission and Vision
 - ✓ Activities that protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public
 - ✓ Services to consumers and licensees
- ◆ *Ensure adequate fiscal and human resources are available to maintain an effective operational structure so that the Board can meet its Mission and Vision*

Board Description

The Board consists of thirteen members: seven public members, one licensed land surveyor, and five licensed engineers. The Governor appoints eleven of the members and one public member each is appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Rules Committee. The five licensed engineer positions consist of a civil engineer, electrical engineer, mechanical engineer, structural engineer, and an engineer licensed in one of the remaining disciplines. Of the licensed engineer positions, one is from a local public agency and one is from a state agency. All members are appointed to four-year terms limited to two consecutive terms. Each member can serve a one-year "grace" period at the end of his or her appointed term.

The Board is mandated to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public by regulating the practices of professional engineering and professional land surveying. The work performed by engineers and land surveyors is highly technical, requiring specialized knowledge, examination, and experience.

The Board fulfills its mandate by:

- ◆ Establishing qualifications
- ◆ Administering examinations
- ◆ Providing information
- ◆ Investigating complaints
- ◆ Enforcing its laws and regulations

Customers and Stakeholders

Defining the customer of any regulated service is critical to evaluating the need for regulation. The Board's customers and stakeholders and needs for each include:

Customer/Stakeholder	Needs
<u>Individuals</u>	
• Public	Protection of health, safety, and welfare; information; and recourse
• Clients/procurers of services	Access to licensed practitioners; information; enforcement of laws and regulations; recourse
• Licensees	Administration of licensure; information; and enforcement of laws and regulations
• Applicants	Fair examinations; access to licensure; and information
• Students	Information
<u>Organizations who interact with the Board on a significant basis</u>	
• Legislature	Protection of the public interest and effective administration of programs
• Executive Branch	Protection of the public interest and effective administration of programs
• Department of Consumer Affairs	Protection of the public interest and effective administration of programs
• State and Local Public Agencies	Information, support, and outreach
• Consumer groups	Information, support, and outreach
• Professional Associations	Information, support, and outreach
• Student Associations	Information, support, and outreach
• NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying)	Support, participation, and information
• California Colleges and Universities	Information, collaboration, and participation in ABET reviews
• Out-of-state Boards	Coordination and information

Values

The Board will strive for the highest possible quality throughout all of its programs, making it an outstanding and effective regulatory organization.

The Board values:

- ♦ *Interaction with customers (both individuals and organizations) that is professional and customer focused.*
- ♦ *A proactive regulatory role.*
- ♦ *A progressive and effective operation.*

Guiding Principles

In conducting business, the Board assures that:

- ♦ *Qualified applicants are processed timely.*
- ♦ *Disputes between consumers and licensees are investigated promptly and impartially.*
- ♦ *Staff is highly competent and contributes to the integral success of the Board.*
- ♦ *Information is available to all through a variety of mediums including a high profile, comprehensive outreach program*
- ♦ *Violations of the law are discouraged before they happen and are investigated and adjudicated promptly when committed.*
- ♦ *Operations are managed strategically, performance is measured against defined standards, and programs and policies are evaluated in light of emerging trends, practices, and technologies.*
- ♦ *Legislative and regulatory changes are approached proactively.*

Goals and Objectives

Goal	Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Protect consumers by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>providing information and education</i> - <i>effectively discouraging violations of the law before they happen</i> - <i>promptly investigating and adjudicating law violations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce backlog of enforcement cases caused by staff shortages to meet performance measures • Evaluate cycle times and performance measures for enforcement cases and implement procedures to ensure cycle times and performance measures are met. • Develop and propose Technical Inspector Program • Develop and implement a proactive plan to expand enforcement outreach • Enhance the Board's website by ensuring information is relevant and current; expand functionality to licensees and consumers through the website
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implement legislative changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes resulting from Sunset Review • Seek statutory authority for a fingerprint/criminal history program • Implement examination pass through fee • Evaluate use of an independent vendor for examination administration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Evaluate the Professional Engineers' Act, the Professional Land Surveyors' Act, and the Board Rules and request regulatory and/or legislative changes where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend delinquent reinstatement requirements • Adopt, amend, or delete regulations as a result of legislative changes from Sunset Review • Review the value of continuing education • Amend the geotechnical engineering experience regulation • Amend appeal regulations regarding NCEES examinations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Increase public and professional awareness of the Board's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mission - Vision - Activities to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the public - Services to both consumers and licensees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a public awareness campaign for consumers/public, professional, and applicant outreach • Coordinate with the Department of Consumer Affairs on iLicensing project • Review and update publications, such as the Local Official Guide • Review and update information provided to applicants

<p>◆ Ensure adequate fiscal and human resources are available to maintain an effective operational structure so that the Board can meet its Mission and Vision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate business processes and staffing functions to ensure effective use of human resources and equipment • Develop a feasibility study for acquiring an integrated database that will maintain education, experience, examination, and enforcement data • Pursue funding for the reporting of legal actions program • Develop a disaster preparedness plan
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Appendix

Environmental Scan

Following is a list of current issues that are affecting the Board as well as engineering and land surveying disciplines in California.

Internal to the Board

- Budget cuts and hiring freeze
- Executive Order freezing the regulation process for six months
- Sunset review
- Backlog of enforcement cases is due to hiring freeze and external processing timelines through Attorney General and Office of Administrative Hearing Offices
- Diversity of engineering licensure disciplines, emerging disciplines, and review of Title Act licensure
- Emerging technology is changing the engineering and land surveying profession
- Decline in graduates in the licensed discipline populations
- Consistency of passing rates on examinations
- California examination development

Department of Consumer Affairs, State and Consumer Services Agency, and State Government

- Continued positive relationship with the Department
- The Governor's eGovernment Initiative
- Need for integrated systems for licensing and enforcement
- Privacy issues especially for Internet consumers
- Sunset Review

Statewide

- Engineering training and practice is moving into areas not regulated by the Board such as computer engineering and related technologies
- Increased specialization within the regulated disciplines
- State specific definitions of regulated disciplines do not always coincide with other states' definitions and/or licensing structures
- Expansion of the industrial, utilities, and contracting exemptions
- Changes to design/build concepts have altered the traditional roles and responsibilities of the practitioner
- Building codes are changing
- New materials are increasingly being used
- Increase in national and international practice
- Declining population graduates in the licensed disciplines with an increased demand for practitioners in these disciplines to address infrastructure upgrades (highways, schools, hospitals, etc.)

- Increased demand for licensed land surveyors and insufficient number of licensed land surveyors or civil engineers authorized to practice land surveying
- Only two schools in California offer a Bachelor's Degree in land surveying
- Unlicensed activity
- Declining passing rates on examinations in California
- Low pass rate of California engineers and land surveyors relative to other states
- Potential for a large earthquake or catastrophic flooding to strike in California which will increase demand for licensed engineers and land surveyors
- Need for consumer education because of consumers' confusions as to when a licensed engineer or land surveyor is needed
- Accessibility to Board services and information
- Continuing professional development
- Need for licensee education of laws and regulations
- Less mentoring of graduate engineers and licensed engineers
- Less motivation to become licensed
- Expectations for eGovernment

National

- California has not adopted NCEES model laws
- Mobility of engineering and land surveying population nationally and internationally
- Support is growing for national licensure
- Comity is difficult for land surveyors coming into California
- Engineering and land surveying graduates have a lack of knowledge of the licensing process
- Differing standards for ABET accredited and non-ABET accredited schools
- New engineering disciplines at a national level are not recognized by California law, thus creating administrative and licensing problems for these individuals and potentially causing a risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.